

NORTHWOODS JOURNAL – AUGUST 2020

A Free Publication about Enjoying and Protecting Marinette County's Outdoor Life

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Peshtigo Fish Viewing Platform Project Underway

Construction has begun on the long awaited Fish Viewing Platform over the Peshtigo River below the WPS Dam at BPM, Inc. on pillars that had once supported a "pipe tunnel" causeway for Badger Paper Mills.



The platform, accessible from Peshtigo River Recreational Park, is intended to be an educational feature and tourist attraction over a portion of the river where fish, mainly walleye, come upstream from the waters of Green Bay to spawn.



"We started late May after the sturgeon spawning was completed, and we've gotten going, and we should be wrapping up everything on shore with the next week or so," said Phill Voss, Immel Construction Project Manager.

Construction crews will refurbish three of the four existing concrete pillars. The fourth one will be removed. Wood laminated beams will serve as the walkway. And while fishing from the new platform will not be allowed, Voss says that's okay. "I think it will be a unique opportunity for people to come out, and see the sturgeon spawning, and enjoy the river from a new vantage point," he said.

The viewing platform will stretch 160 feet over the Peshtigo River. Peshtigo Mayor Cathi Malke says spring spawning runs for walleye and sturgeon could attract visitors from the area and beyond. "We need this. Because it's our future. It's something for the city to have, and cherish, for our recreation".



The platform will include two expanded seating areas complete with benches. The platform is also designed for handicap accessibility, safety and unobstructed viewing. The project will include educational signage and kiosks with information on natural history, fisheries, invasive species, local history, fish species, hydro facility information and dam safety. There will also be some history of the Peshtigo Fire. Construction is expected to wrap up this fall.



Dreams of converting the former utility "bridge" into a fish viewing platform started with former Peshtigo Mayor Al Krizeneky more than five years ago. After Krizeneky left his position with the city, current Mayor Cathi Malke picked up where Krizeneky left off. Price of the project is estimated at approximately \$500,000. Grants received for the platform included a Stewardship Grant for \$285,029.50, WCMP grant for \$100,000.00, Fund for Lake Michigan grant for \$8,300.00, WPS grant \$10,000.00 WCMP grant \$100,000 and sale of plaques \$10,000.

Mayor Malke said commemorative granite tiles are still being offered for sale by the city for display on the wall at the platform site. Prices for different sizes of granite tiles are \$1,000 for a 18x24 tile, \$500 for a 12x12 tile, and \$200 for a 6x6 tile. Smaller tiles are available from \$50 to \$199. To order a commemorative tile contact Mayor Malke at Peshtigo City Hall, 715-582-3041.

Excerpts for this article taken from:

- Peshtigo Times Newspaper - <https://peshtigotimes.net/?id=40123>
- Fox 11 News Channel Online - <https://fox11online.com/news/local/peshtigo-fish-viewing-platform-construction-underway>

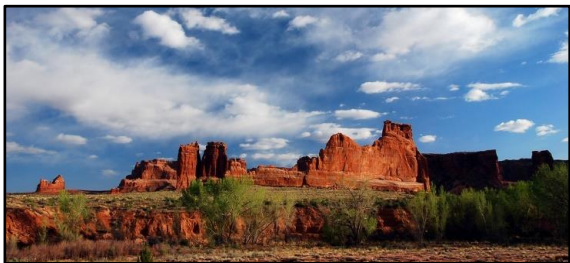
Congress passes the Great American Outdoors Act, a ‘once in a generation’ conservation bill



Congress has passed - by overwhelming bipartisan margins - the *Great American Outdoors Act*. This historic legislation will protect wildlife, restore parks and other public lands, expand outdoor recreation opportunities, and boost the economy by creating jobs.

On July 22, the House of Representatives passed a sweeping public lands package to fix crumbling national park infrastructure and permanently fund a decades-old conservation program, sending the legislation to President Donald Trump for final approval. The overwhelming 310-107 vote by the House comes just over a month after the Senate passed the bill. *(Note: Trump just signed it into law on August 4, 2020.)*

The bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act has been hailed as the most significant conservation legislation in a generation and combines two bills that might otherwise not have passed on their own. One sets aside \$9.5 billion to address the estimated \$12 billion maintenance backlog at national parks, which has been a priority of the Trump administration. The other *permanently* supports the **Land and Water Conservation Fund**, which was established in 1964 and uses offshore fossil fuel revenue to protect natural areas and water resources, at the maximum \$900 million per year.



Arches National Park, Utah

The LWCF program, which has existed for over 50 years, has been plagued by funding shortfalls and has only twice received the full \$900 million. For over five decades, this popular conservation program has created and maintained pocket parks, wildlife habitat, hiking and biking trails, waterfront access, and so much more in nearly every county in the United States. It has helped protect threatened and endangered species - including Florida panthers, Karner blue butterflies (below), whooping cranes, and Sonoran pronghorn. With full funding, it can now realize its full potential.



“We have a generational opportunity to ensure

America’s crown jewels are protected,” Representative Raúl Grijalva, a Democrat from Arizona and chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, said in speech on the House floor ahead of the vote. “We have a unique chance to ensure that every tool is available to help us respond to the climate crisis, [to] protect those landscapes that best protect clean water, clean air, and healthy green spaces. This bill is a major win for the American people, decades in the making.”

“Today, we the people made history,” Land Tawney, president of the Montana-based nonprofit Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, said in a statement. “The Great American Outdoors Act is a momentous achievement in the name of our most prized American landscapes and outdoors legacy. It’s a once in a generation piece of conservation and public access legislation that will have impacts for generations to come.”



Glacier National Park, Montana

Time and again, we see that conservation issues bring people together, even in divisive times. Republicans and Democrats passed the Great American Outdoors Act because they know that protecting public lands, expanding recreation opportunities, and creating jobs helps all families during these challenging times. And they know we have an obligation to the future to uphold our nation’s conservation tradition.



St. Croix River, Wisconsin – part of the National Wild & Scenic River System

Excerpts & information for this article taken from:

- <https://grist.org/politics/congress-passes-the-great-american-outdoors-act-a-once-in-a-generation-conservation-bill/>
- <https://www.nwf.org/Home/Latest-News/Press-Releases/2020/06-04-20-Great-American-Outdoors-Act>
- <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1957?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22great+american+outdoors+act%22%5D%7D&s=2&r=1>
- <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/congress-passes-sprawling-plan-to-boost-conservation-parks>
- <https://www.jsonline.com/story/sports/outdoors/2018/07/21/land-and-water-conservation-fund-retains-strong-support-wisconsin/800258002/>
- <https://www.nacdnet.org/2020/08/04/great-american-outdoors-act-signed-into-law/>

Legislation in the Works: Recovering America’s Wildlife Act

Excerpts from the Wildlife Society - <https://wildlife.org/policy/recovering-america-wildlife-act/>



Prothonotary Warbler

The *Recovering America’s Wildlife Act* was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives in early July. Since introduction in July 2019, this legislation has seen over 180 bipartisan cosponsors.

The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (H.R. 3742), introduced by Representatives Debbie Dingell (D-Michigan) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-Nebraska), **would provide \$1.4 billion in dedicated annual funding to state and tribal fish and wildlife agencies**. This funding would go towards the conservation and monitoring of at-risk species, known in states as *Species of Greatest Conservation Need* (SGCN), in order to work towards reversing population declines. (For Wisconsin SGCN species, visit <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/actionPlanSGCN.html>).

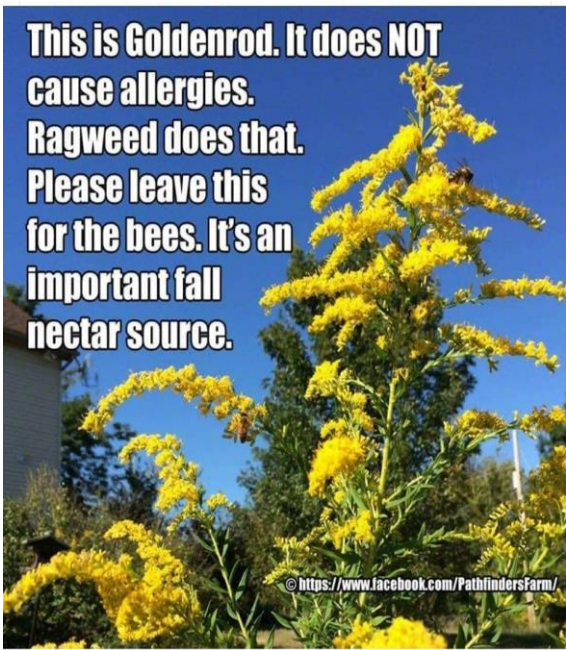
Since 2000, state and tribal wildlife agencies have pulled from a much smaller funding stream known as the *State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program*. This program is vulnerable to the whims of congressional appropriators each year, and is typically only funded at about \$60 million annually. This problem is amplified in tribal agencies, where no fund exists that agencies can utilize annually for long-term conservation planning. The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act aims to drastically change this dynamic. This legislation would:

- Implement the ideas of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America’s Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources to address the financial needs associated with keeping species from facing costlier emergency conservation measures down the road.
- Provide \$1.3 billion in dedicated funding annually for the implementation of state fish and wildlife agencies’ wildlife action plans.
- Provide \$97.5 million in dedicated funding annually for tribal agencies to work on at-risk species recovery.
- Allot 10% of dedicated annual funds towards the implementation of a competitive grants program aimed at fostering cooperation among states.
- Leverage funds from state agencies, universities, and non-governmental organizations to boost the power of federal conservation spending.
- Provide greater regulatory certainty for industry and private partners by conserving species and avoiding the need to list them under the Endangered Species Act.
- Empower wildlife professionals to hold the nation’s wildlife in the public trust by providing state and tribal agencies with the flexibility to conserve populations in an effective and cost-effective manner.

For more information, visit: <https://debbiedingell.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=2550>.



This is Goldenrod. It does NOT cause allergies. Ragweed does that. Please leave this for the bees. It's an important fall nectar source.



We are approaching the time of year that you will begin to see Goldenrod in bloom. If you have allergies, this is not the plant you are allergic to! **Goldenrod pollen is heavy and sticky, and insect pollinated - not airborne/wind-pollinated - like Ragweed.** Pollen needs to be airborne to enter your nasal passages and cause you misery. Goldenrod pollen is unable to do this. Leave the Goldenrod alone - it is an excellent fall source of nectar for our pollinators.

Below is a photo of Ragweed, the allergy culprit!



Ragweed



Goldenrod



Northwoods Journal

Volume 18, Issue 3

The *Northwoods Journal* focuses on various outdoor recreation opportunities and local environmental topics to inform readers about natural resource use, management, and recreation in Marinette County.

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Please send comments to:
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1926 Hall Ave, Marinette, WI 54143
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Why Wasps Attack and How to Avoid Them

From: <https://www.treehugger.com/>



There is nothing like a mad swarm of irked hornets or yellow jackets hot on your tail. It's scary and potentially painful and for those with allergies, life threatening. There are some who prescribe to the school of search and destroy – that eliminating wasp nests at all costs is the best approach. And obviously if they present a clear danger, that's understandable. But what many people don't realize is that these weaponized insects happen to do a lot of good, despite their ability to inflict a bit of agony now and then.

There are many thousands of identified species of wasps, and although we are most familiar with the ones with whom we do battle with at picnics, *there are many that do not sting*. Wasps come in two styles, social and solitary – and in fact, most varieties are solitary and non-stinging. Colony-building social wasps, like hornets and yellow jackets, make up around 1,000 species.

But the remarkable thing about wasps, as National Geographic points out, is this: **Nearly every pest insect on the planet is preyed upon by a wasp species, either for food or as a host for its parasitic larvae.** Wasps are so adept at controlling pest populations that the agriculture industry *now regularly deploys them* to protect crops.



Spider wasp with prey

From flies to beetle larvae to every kind of garden pest that vexes, it's likely that their numbers are controlled by wasps. Plus, wasps offer some pollinating services as well. While not as effective at getting pollen from one place to another as bees, wasps still do their best. And some species are rock stars when it comes to pollinating - fig wasps, for example, are responsible for pollinating almost 1,000 species of figs.

It behooves us to do our best to get along with wasps, and part of that is better understanding their behavior. Social wasps in distress send out a pheromone that is like a 911 call to the nearby colony; the result is a swarm of ticked-off wasps in an aggressive frenzy. The best thing to do is to avoid angering even a single wasp. **The UC-Davis Integrated Pest Management program offers these tips to avoid bees and wasps**, noting that unless a person collides with or swats

one, they are unlikely to sting (and/or get mad and send out a call to the troops).

Bees and wasps can be attracted to, or may react to, odors in the environment. It is best not to use perfume, cologne, or scented soaps if you are going into an area of bee and/or wasp activity.

Avoid going barefoot in vegetation, especially clover and blooming ground covers.



Great Black Wasp nectaring on red milkweed

Avoid wearing brightly colored or patterned clothing.

Remain calm if a bee or wasp lands on your skin – most likely, the insect eventually will leave of its own accord. Or, gently and slowly brush it away with a piece of paper.

Watch out for bees or wasps trapped on the surface of the water when swimming. If you find bees or wasps in the water, it's best to remove them to avoid being stung.

Stinging incidents often occur when nesting areas of social insects are disturbed. **If you see insects flying to and from a particular place, avoid it.**

Note: wasps, Queen honeybees, solitary bees, bumble bees and other species have smooth stingers than can sting over and over, but a honeybee stings once and then it dies. So respect the bees and wasps and they'll continue playing their important roles in the ecosystem ... and you may have a few less stings to agonize over.

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO YELLOW STRIPEY THINGS



CARPENTER BEE

- ACTS LIKE IT'S TOUGH, BUT CAN'T ACTUALLY HURT YOU
- HAS NO CONCEPT OF WHAT GLASS IS
- LIVES IN YOUR FENCE
- FLIES AGGRESSIVELY TO TRY AND SCARE YOU AWAY



HONEYBEE

- IS THE BEE THAT NEEDS HELP THE MOST
- EXCELLENT POLLINATOR
- VERY FRIENDLY
- CAN ONLY STING ONCE



BUMBLEBEE

- ALSO POLLINATES STUFF VERY WELL
- SO FAT IT SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FLY
- WILL LET YOU PET IT WITHOUT GETTING AGITATED
- ACTUALLY A FLYING PANDA



HOVERFLY

- WEARS YELLOW STRIPEY UNIFORM TO SCARE YOU
- ACTUALLY CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU
- HANGS OUT IN FIELDS
- FOLLOWS YOU IF IT LIKES YOU



PAPER WASP

- LOOKS SCARY, BUT WILL ONLY ATTACK IF PROVOKED
- STING HURTS LIKE THE DEVIL
- WILL CHASE YOU IF YOU SWAT AT IT
- HAS NO CONCEPT OF PERSONAL SPACE



YELLOW JACKET

- WANTS YOUR FOOD AND WILL FIGHT YOU FOR IT
- NEVER LEAVES YOU ALONE
- WILL STING YOU JUST FOR THE HECK OF IT
- IS JUST A JERK



CICADA KILLER

- LOOKS LIKE SATAN'S NIGHTMARES
- EXCLUSIVELY EATS CICADAS
- CAN STING YOU, BUT USUALLY WON'T
- STILL PRETTY TERRIFYING



DIRT DAUBER

- ALMOST NEVER STINGS ANYTHING EXCEPT SPIDERS
- BUILDS NEST IN THE GROUND
- HOARDS SPIDERS IN SAID NEST
- COOLEST LOOKING OF THE WASPS



August is National Water Quality Month – What You can do to Help Protect our Water Resources



As Americans, we sometimes take for granted the fact that we have safe drinking water. We don't think about what's in our drinking water until there's a crisis situation.

August is National Water Quality Month, which means it's the perfect time to educate ourselves on where our water comes from and how we can preserve it. Educating ourselves is the best way to ensure that our water continues to be high quality and free of contamination.



Did you know that half of the United States population lives within 50 miles of a coast? The majority of Americans get their water from one of the 54,000 local water providers across the country. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has placed federal regulations on public water suppliers to ensure that they are monitoring more than 100 contaminants. Part of their job is to take the wastewater from our households that flows into the utilities main wastewater pipeline, remove pollutants from it, and re-use it or release it back into the environment.

But when it comes to water quality, it's not only the EPA and local water suppliers' job to protect our water!

We live on what's called a watershed. A *watershed is land that drains to one stream, lake, or river*. All drainage affects our water quality. If you have healthy watersheds, your water is less expensive to treat, you have better quality outdoor recreation involving lakes, rivers, streams, and your property values could be higher. The health of our water is largely determined by how we treat the watersheds we live by.



Lake Michigan's watershed – all the land around it that drains into the lake

Although the majority of our water is regulated and safe to drink, you should still be cautious about what could potentially be in your pipes, faucets, and local waterways contaminating your water.

According to the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), contaminated water could have higher concentrations of lead, atrazine, pathogens, chlorine, arsenic, nitrates, radioactive material, vinyl chloride, perchlorate, and pharmaceuticals.

Did You Know?

- There is about the same amount of water on Earth now as there was millions of years ago.
- Nearly 97 percent of all the world's water is salty or otherwise undrinkable. Another 2 percent is locked in ice caps and glaciers. That leaves 1 percent for all our needs.
- Water regulates the Earth's temperature. It also helps regulate the temperature of the human body!
- The Great Lakes provide the backbone for a \$6 trillion regional economy that would be one of the largest in the world if it stood alone as a country. Learn more at www.glc.org/lakes.
- The average total home water use for each person in the U.S. is about 50 gallons a day.
- More water is used in the bathroom than any other place in the home.
- A dripping faucet can waste up to 2,000 gallons of water a year.



You Can Help Conserve Our Water Resources

- At school and at home, you can help protect our water resources.
- Turn off the tap in your bathroom while you brush your teeth.
- Take shorter showers (time yourself!) and repair dripping faucets.
- Don't let the water run constantly while you're washing or rinsing dishes.
- Fill a pitcher with tap water and put it in the fridge, rather than running the tap every time you want a cold drink!
- Clean sidewalks and driveways with a broom--not the water hose!
- Water your lawn in the early morning to avoid evaporation, and put mulch around trees and plants to retain water.

For more information:

<https://www.doitbest.com/resources/articles-and-buying-guides/national-water-quality-month>

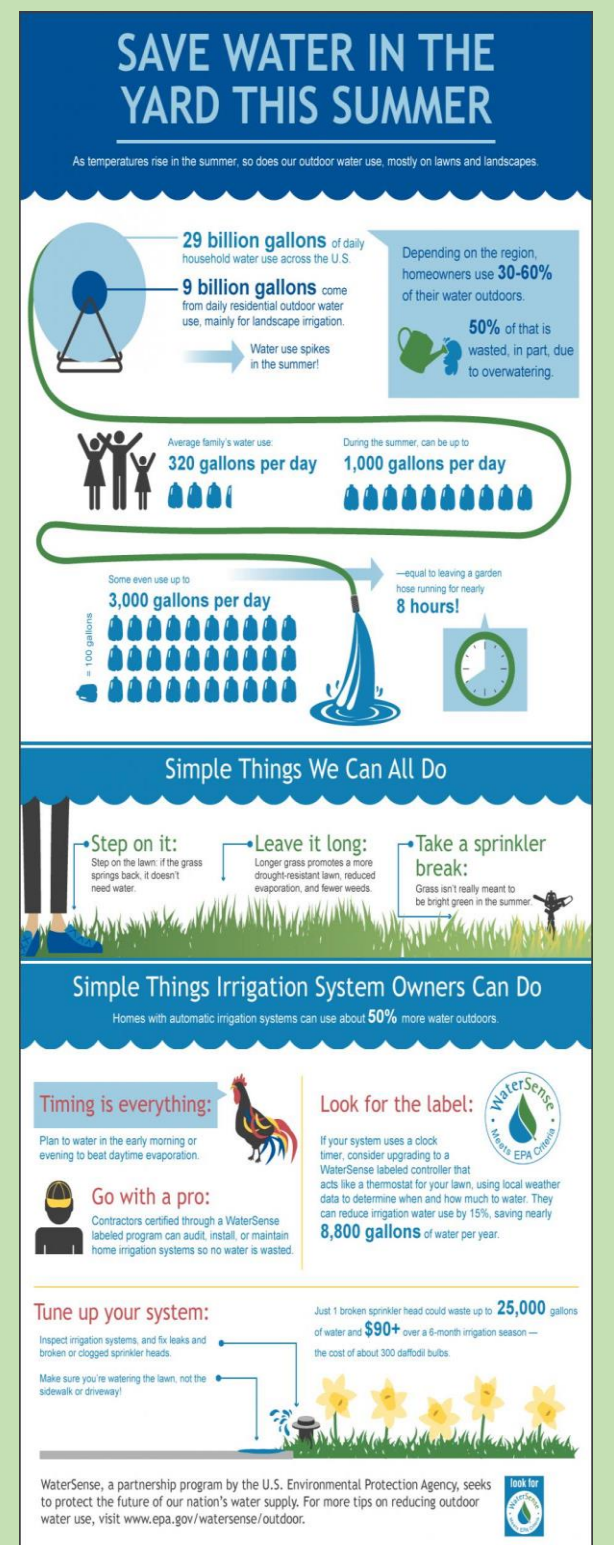
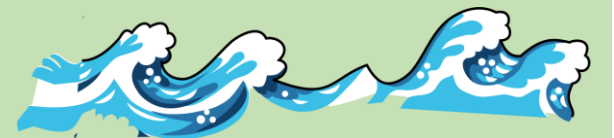
<https://www.eekwi.org/explore/water-wonders/water-facts-and-conservation-tips>

<https://www.michiganseagrant.org/topics/great-lakes-fast-facts/lake-michigan/>

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/water.html> - WI DNR

<https://www.glc.org/> - Great Lakes Commission

<https://www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/water-topics> - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Beginner Tips for Canoeing with Kids

By Brianna Randall - excerpts from
<https://runwildmychild.com/canoeing-with-kids/>



Canoeing with kids is a great way to spend time outside, exploring and exercising. If going on a canoe trip with kids sounds fun, but intimidating or overwhelming, we're here to show you just how much fun (and easy) it can be.

My husband and I are water people. We've sailed across the Pacific Ocean, snorkeled around the Caribbean, paddled through the Everglades, and rafted down plenty of wild rivers. Once we had kids, we began integrating them into our adventures from the get-go. Canoes have been the perfect way for us to introduce our children to the water.

Two years ago we bought a used 15-foot Coleman to explore lakes and rivers near our home in Montana. We've since added a small outboard motor and a sail, too. Sometimes we go out for an hour, and sometimes we pile in the camping gear and head out for a week.



Here's why we recommend canoes for your family, too:

- ✂ **Affordable.** This sport is low-risk and low-investment to try out: you can buy a good used canoe for around \$300, or rent one for a day to try it out first.
- ✂ **Versatile.** Canoes come in a wide range of sizes and styles, ranging from sleek wooden boats to wide plastic boats and even inflatable versions (these are the cheapest options and easiest to transport, but they don't last as hard-shell canoes and require more time to inflate/deflate). Some are designed specifically for speed or to handle whitewater, but all canoes will work on any calm water bodies you want to float.
- ✂ **Simple.** It doesn't take long to learn how to paddle a canoe, even for young kids. Watch videos online to learn basic steering strokes, or play around in a small pond to figure it out on your own. Plus, these boats can be stored outside, and are maintenance-free!
- ✂ **Easy transport.** Most canoes weigh 50-80 pounds, which is totally manageable for two adults. They can be placed upside-down on top of your car, no trailer needed (*foam pool noodles work well to protect your vehicle's paint if you don't have a roof rack.*)

✂ **Sturdy.** Aluminum and plastic boats are particularly good for kids, as their tough, washable, and more stable - look for boats with flatter bottoms, which feel less "tippy". As you might expect, it's possible to tip over in a canoe, especially with squirmy kids around. Test the stability near the shore, wiggling hips and moving around in the boat to see how much side-to-side leeway you have before it feels uncomfortably. You can get stabilizer pontoon floats, which make it super safe and allow us to walk around the boat or stand up to cast for fish.)



Ready to try it out this summer? Here are some tips

- ✂ **It gets easier.** Any new activity is tough at first until everyone learns the ropes - this is doubly true if your kids are young. Remember that even if canoeing isn't quite as fun as you'd hoped the first couple of times out, you're building skills that will last you and your kids a lifetime, and give you wonderful bonding opportunities for years to come.
- ✂ **Get excited!** Your happiness (or crankiness) is contagious. If you're thrilled to be on the water, your kids will be, too. Let them help plan the trip and help pack the canoe so the whole family is invested in the outing.
- ✂ **Offer clear rules and rewards.** Before you launch, set a few clear safety rules: don't stand up without asking, no leaning or jumping over the side, keep life jackets on, no whining. Try offering a reward at the end of the day if they follow the rules, such as a sweet treat or a movie.
- ✂ **Designate a special spot for everyone.** Decide which adult will be in the stern (back seat) steering - they have less leeway to help manage the kids. The adult in the bow (front seat) can help paddle forward when needed, but can also take breaks easily. If you have a toddler, stand them between the adult's legs in the bow where they can see and move around a little. Babies can be worn in a soft carrier. Older kids can sit on the center crossbars or a middle seat (if the canoe has one) to help paddle, or hunker down to play in the bottom of the boat.



- ✂ **Take your time.** Like most outings with children in tow, the trip will probably take longer than you think. While you and your partner might want to race across the lake,

kids will enjoy it more if you take plenty of breaks. In fact, much of the joy in canoeing is playing on shore! Stop often at interesting spots to swim, have lunch, and explore islands or beaches you couldn't get to without a boat. And don't expect the kids to add much horsepower - paddling is simply a fun diversion for them.

Recommended Packing List

Any of the items below should be placed in a waterproof bag since the bottom of the boat gets wet from everyone's shoes and dripping paddles. If you don't have a dry bag, wrap your backpack or tote in a sturdy trash bag. Buckets also make for great storage in a canoe.

Life jackets: Everyone needs to wear a life jacket. Even if the grown-ups are stellar swimmers, you're the role models for your kids. Have kids practice wearing theirs before you get in the boat, so they get used to them. If you can't find a comfortable jacket for your kiddo, try U.S. Coast Guard-approved water wings that are less bulky.

Clothing:

- Sandals with straps or waterproof rain boots.
- Sun hats and sun-protective clothing.
- Rain gear, which can double as windbreakers.
- Extra outfit for little kids who will likely get wet and muddy playing.

Food and Drinks: Like all outings with kiddos, make sure you pack lots of easy-to-grab snacks to keep them occupied, fueled, and happy. We like to bring "special" drinks for the kids to make sure they stay hydrated in the sun: lemonade powder in their water bottles is a favorite.

Gear:

- Toilet paper if you're not near public restrooms.
- Umbrella or pop-up tent for shade in the boat or on shore—perfect for passing rainstorms, too!
- Seat pads or stadium-style folding seats.
- Rope to attach to the bow to help pull the boat on shore.
- Maps of the area you're paddling.
- Tarp or blanket for picnics or for "beds" for kids in the bottom of canoe.
- Extra paddle(s) for the kids: emergency paddles that are adjustable and light-weight work well.



Fun Stuff:

- Binoculars
- Field guides
- Fishing rod & gear
- Frisbee
- Bubbles
- Chalk (to draw on rocks or the inside of the boat—it washes right off!)
- Bucket (have the kids fill it with rocks/sticks/leaves on shore, then throw them overboard one at a time while you paddle)

Other links for getting kids into nature:

- <http://adventurefamilies.org/>
- <https://mothernatured.com/>
- <https://wilderchild.com/>
- <https://www.1000hoursoutside.com/>



CAMPERS CORNER

Marinette County Parks



This is a great year to be outdoors! Marinette County is bursting at the seams with parks, water falls, rustic roads, lakes, rivers and streams! All of our parks do not have waste bins, so please take your garbage with you. We want to keep our County beautiful and here are a few tips how you can help.

ECO-CONSCIOUS TRAVEL

Consider the things you are drinking from. Bring a reusable eco-friendly water bottle with you or please refill the bottle that you have brought with.

Walking, biking and hiking are a great earth friendly alternative to driving. When on vacation, map out your excursion prior, to see the best route for your trip and try to walk, bike and hike while you are there.

Try don't remove plants and animals from the natural environment and don't purchase handicrafts made from them. The best mementos are often pictures. Visit www.envirocitizen.org for more ways you can keep reducing your carbon footprint.

WHAT IS A CARBON FOOTPRINT?

The purpose of a carbon footprint is simply to remind us that whatever we eat, do or use takes energy to produce, ship and function.

Everything from the ingredients in your meals to the gas you use to get to work uses up resources—some that aren't renewable.

SMART CAMPING

We all produce a lot of waste while camping. Cooking, cleaning and hydrating adds to our footprint.

Here are a few ways to reduce trash at your campsite. Instead of paper plates and utensils, use reusable dishes. Ditch plastic table clothes, paper towels and napkins for reusable and washable versions. Repackage food into reusable containers before heading out. Keep a separate bag or box for recyclables. For more ways on how to help the earth, please visit Int.org.

Follow us on Instagram
[@marinettecountyparks](https://www.instagram.com/marinettecountyparks)



Follow us on Facebook
The Real North
(Marinette County)



Marinette County TWIN BRIDGE PARK and Camping

N9714 Parkway Rd, Crivitz, WI 54114

Join us at Twin Bridge Park! This park and campground is set on 90 acres with a large picnic area and two swimming beaches. We have 62 electric campsites and one group site!

We have a large playground by the beach and picnic area for your kids and grandkids to play on for hours. Fall is coming. Doesn't it sound relaxing to snuggle up to a campfire in the brisk fall night?

CAMPING: \$25/night
DAY USAGE: \$5/day
(passes available online or at park entrances)
Reserve your site today, they are filling up!
www.marinettecounty.com/parks

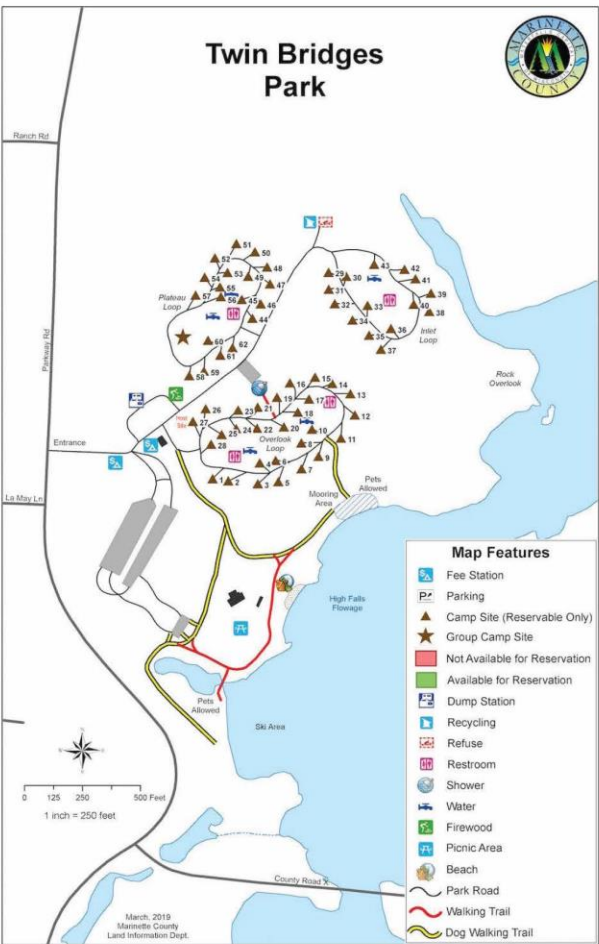
AMENITIES

62 electric campsites | Located on 'High Falls Flowage'
Shower/Flush Toilet Building
Picnic tables and grills | Onsite Laundry
Playground | Swimming Beach | Scenic rock outcrop overlook
Boating and fishing | Firewood for sale \$5.00



MARINETTE COUNTY OPENING DAY:
May 1..... All Parks, Cabins and Lodges

MARINETTE COUNTY CLOSING DAY:
October 15.....
Twin Bridge Park and Lake Noquebay Beach House
Potable Water Towers at Morgan and Goodman Parks
November 1..... All Lodges
November 30.....All Camping Parks and Cabins
Morgan Park, Veteran's Falls, McClintock Park,
Twelve Foot Falls Park, and Goodman Park
*some parks may close earlier due to inclement weather



Safe Burning – Burn Responsibly or Don't Burn At All!

From <http://dnr.wi.gov>

Debris burning is the number one cause of wildfires in Wisconsin. Using fire as a method to dispose of vegetative yard waste isn't the only option. While debris burning is legal in most places, let's face it...it's unsafe, unhealthy and a nuisance. If you choose to burn, follow these simple guidelines to ensure you are burning **SAFELY**:

Before Burning:

- Find alternatives to burning debris *before* deciding to burn
- Obtain proper burn permits and follow any restrictions
- Comply with local ordinances that may be more restrictive than state law
- Make certain you are only burning legal materials (*turn over for a complete list*)
- Keep an eye on the weather and avoid burning under windy conditions
- Make certain the area adjacent to the fire is free of all flammables

During Burning:

- Have a water source and firefighting tools handy
- Keep the size of the fire small and manageable
- Maintain a mineral soil firebreak around the burn area
- Never leave your fire unattended
- If weather conditions change for the worst, put the fire out. If your fire escapes, dial 911 immediately!

After Burning:

- Make sure the burn is completely out before leaving
- Use lots of water, drown, stir and repeat until cold
- Go back and check again later for any remaining smoke or embers
- Fun fact: use cold ashes from your burn as a bed for your garden. It makes a great fertilizer!

What can I burn with my DNR burning permit?

Allowed:

Brush, Leaves, Pine needles, Grass, Clean wood, Unrecyclable paper*, Unrecyclable cardboard*

* Recycling of clean paper and cardboard is required by law!

NOT Allowed:

Garbage, Plastics, Shingles, Foam, Structures, Furniture, Wire, Metal, Electronics, Vinyl products, Rubber products, Oil-based products, Painted, Stained or treated wood

Alternatives to Burning

REUSE - Find someone else who can use it, have a yard sale or donate. Bring reusable shopping bags to the grocery store. Leave grass clippings on the lawn; they contain nutrients.

RECYCLE - Separate newspaper, magazines, cardboard, paper, glass, plastic and aluminum, steel or tin cans.



DISPOSE - Discard non-recyclable waste materials at a licensed landfill.

COMPOST - Mulch or collect leaves and plant clippings for composting or move brush piles in the woods for wildlife habitat.

CHIP - Collect brush and clean wood to make mulch or decorative chips, or use as heating fuel in fireplaces.

WAIT - Avoid burning in the spring. The safest time to burn is when the ground is completely snow-covered. Throw a tarp over legal materials and wait until it snows.

For a DNR burn permit or to check today's burning restrictions:
dnr.wi.gov (keyword "fire")
 1-888-wis-burn (947-2876)

Worried About a Coronavirus Summer Slump? Boost Kids' Brainpower with Nature

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/family/2020/05/coronavirus-summer-slump-let-nature-boost-brainpower/>



Parents at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Preschool in Milwaukee like to share the changes they notice in their children. After spending hours outside each day—clambering over logs, exploring under rocks, learning to quietly observe wildlife—shy children became bolder, and hesitation gradually morphed into confidence.

Teachers noticed a difference too: The kids could sit still when needed, became more attentive listeners, and could better regulate their behavior.

"I'd meet teachers at other schools who would say, 'I know kids who came from that preschool,'" says school founder and former director Patti Bailie, now an assistant professor of early childhood education at the University of Maine. "They ask more questions, are willing to try new things, and are more caring with the other children."



The idea of having children connect with nature has long been held up as beneficial for the body and mind. Time spent outdoors has been linked with improved attention spans, better memory, and enhanced executive function—how we learn versus what we learn. Bailie adds that nature experiences are positively linked to early brain development and provides opportunities to hone gross motor skills, stimulate brain-boosting chemicals that improve neuron-to-neuron communication, and help produce new cells in the brain.



"There's now enough evidence that shows a very causal link between outdoor learning and academic achievement," says Sarah Milligen-Toffler, executive director of the Children & Nature Network. "We know now there are very specific ways nature impacts our ability to learn and engage."

Here are some insights from the experts about how weaving outdoor or nature-based activities into your child's life can boost their brainpower.

Movement + mess = mightier minds

A central tenet of the "brain-based learning" theory is that movement can strengthen the brain's ability to learn, retain, and recall lessons. The approach got its start in the mid-'90s, after studies showed that many of the same neural pathways in the cerebellum, a highly complex area of the brain involved in coordinating motor movements, are also related to learning processes.

Further research indicated that activities involving cross-lateral movement, or reaching across the body with arms and legs, specifically helps the two sides of the brain connect and communicate. That means that things like digging for treasure and crouching to inspect insects could be directly connected with improved reading and writing skills.



With apologies to neat freaks, that means that clutter that kids must interact with can actually be good - outdoors in a yard, in the corners of local parks, or other natural spaces you might have access to. The key word is "unstructured." Beyond just toys in the yard, it's as much about supplying your kids with tools like shovels and spoons as it is about leaving sticks and brush in the yard to build with. Take kids to a nearby waterway to turn over stones and look for invertebrates and amphibians, or to unpaved hiking trails with plenty of logs and boulders to jump on and navigate around.

"What's inviting to a child is the lack of adult dominance," says Nooshin Razani, a pediatrician and founding director of the Center for Nature and Health at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. "It's not too well-groomed and not barren. Plain grass is not that fun. It needs little things kids can move around and play with. Then it becomes a landscape for opportunity and creativity."



Strengthening family ties

Razani, well-known for her "park prescriptions," says that *one aspect to outdoor time often goes overlooked: its role in building and fostering healthy relationships*. In her clinical practice in the San Francisco Bay area, Razani uses trips to area parks as part of therapeutic interventions to promote healing for families struggling with poverty, depression, and other issues.

In her research, she's noted that the outdoor

Continued on page 9



USDA Declares August Tree Check Month

WASHINGTON, July 23, 2020 - August is the peak time of year to spot the **Asian longhorned beetle** (ALB) as adults emerge from trees. That's why the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is declaring August as 'Tree Check Month.' Checking trees for the beetle and the damage it causes is one way residents can protect their own trees and help USDA's efforts to eliminate this beetle from the United States.



"Just this past June, we confirmed a new infestation in South Carolina after a homeowner reported that they found a dead Asian longhorned beetle on their property," said Josie Ryan, APHIS' National Operations Manager for the ALB Eradication Program. "We need the public's help to find new areas where the beetle has spread, because finding it sooner means less trees will become infested."

ALB is an invasive wood-boring beetle that attacks 12 types of hardwood trees in North America, such as maples, elms, horse chestnuts, birches and willows. In its larval stage, the insect feeds inside tree trunks and branches during the colder months. The beetle creates tunnels as it feeds, then it chews its way out as an adult in the warmer months. Infested trees do not recover and eventually die. Infested trees can become safety hazards since branches can drop and trees can fall over, especially during storms.

The beetle has distinctive markings that are easy to recognize:

- Black and white antennae that are longer than the insect's body.
- A shiny black body with white spots that is about 1" to 1 ½" long.
- Six legs and feet that can appear bluish-colored.

Signs that a tree might be infested include:

- Round exit holes in tree trunks and branches about the size of a dime or smaller (first photo below).
- Shallow oval or round scars in the bark where the adult beetle chewed an egg site (second photo below).
- Sawdust-like material called *frass*, laying on the ground around the tree or in the branches.
- Dead branches or limbs falling from an otherwise healthy-looking tree.



ALB is not harmful to people or pets. If possible, residents should take pictures and capture suspicious insects in a durable container and freeze them, which helps preserve the insect for identification. Residents can report the insect or tree damage by calling the ALB hotline at 1-866-702-9938 or reporting online at www.AsianLonghornedBeetle.com.



"As people use firewood this summer, we are also asking them to buy heat-treated and certified wood rather than move untreated firewood long distances, which can potentially spread ALB," warned Ryan. "You can also responsibly gather firewood where you will burn it or buy it in the area where you will use it."

Firewood cannot move out of areas that are quarantined for ALB without a permit. It is important that people follow state and federal laws, which restrict the movement of woody material, to keep the tree-killing pest from spreading outside of known infested areas.



It is possible to eradicate the pest. Most recently, USDA and its partners declared Brooklyn and Queens in New York free of ALB. The insect has also been eradicated from areas in Illinois, New Jersey, Boston, Massachusetts, other portions of New York, and portions of Ohio.

For more information about the Asian longhorned beetle, other ways to keep it from spreading and eradication program activities, visit www.AsianLonghornedBeetle.com. For local inquiries or to speak to your State Plant Health Director, call 1-866-702-9938.

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2020 the **International Year of Plant Health** (IYPH). Please join APHIS to help protect the world's crops, forests, gardens, and landscapes against invasive pests. Learn more about IYPH online at www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/2020.



Information for the article from:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/newsroom/news>.



Protect the Trees You Love From Tree-killing Bugs!

<https://www.dontmovefirewood.org/>

Don't risk starting a new infestation of an invasive insect or disease - you have the power to save trees!



Don't take firewood with you on your camping trip, RV adventure, or up to your hunting camp. Don't bring firewood back from your second home to your place in the suburbs. Don't bring it with you on your scout's camping trip. Instead, buy it where you'll burn it, or gather firewood on site when permitted.

You can still have a roaring campfire, or a cozy night in front of the fireplace, if you just know how to burn safe.

- Buy firewood near where you will burn it- a good rule of thumb is only using wood that was cut within 50 miles of where you'll have your fire. Regulations vary in each state, so visit our [Firewood Map](#) to learn more.
- Certified heat-treated firewood is safe to move long distances. Look for a state or federal stamp or seal on the package, and keep the firewood in the original packaging as much as possible if entering a campground that requires heat treated wood.
- Some states list their firewood vendors on [Firewood Scout](#), to make finding local firewood easier for everyone. Check their site to see if your state is included!
- Wood that looks clean and healthy can still have tiny insect eggs, or microscopic fungi spores, that will start a new and deadly infestation. Always leave your backyard firewood at home, even if you think it looks fine.
- Aged or seasoned wood is still not safe. Just because it is dry doesn't mean that bugs can't crawl onto it- and some insects can take several years to mature inside the wood.
- Tell your friends not to bring wood with them- everyone needs to know that they should not move firewood.

Northwoods Journal Online

Would you like to read current issues of the *Northwoods Journal* online? Go to www.marinettecounty.com and search for 'Northwoods Journal'. We can also send you an e-mail reminder when each new issue is posted online. Contact Anne Bartels, Information & Education Specialist at 715-732-7784 or email abartels@marinettecounty.com.



Brainpower, continued from page 9

environment can help people build beneficial social ties. Her observations are backed by other inquiries: a 2018 study found that talking to kids while taking even short excursions resulted in increased talkativeness, responsiveness, and communication between parents and children.



Some of her current work explores using nature as a dose - just like medicine. In clinical trials, she's studying how the outdoors and nature can be used to treat depression and anxiety in kids as well as families. "If we're going to take nature seriously as a health intervention, we do need guidelines on how much, how often, and for whom nature can be of use," she says. "And we know that just one strong relationship with a parent can do all kinds of good things for childhood brain development."

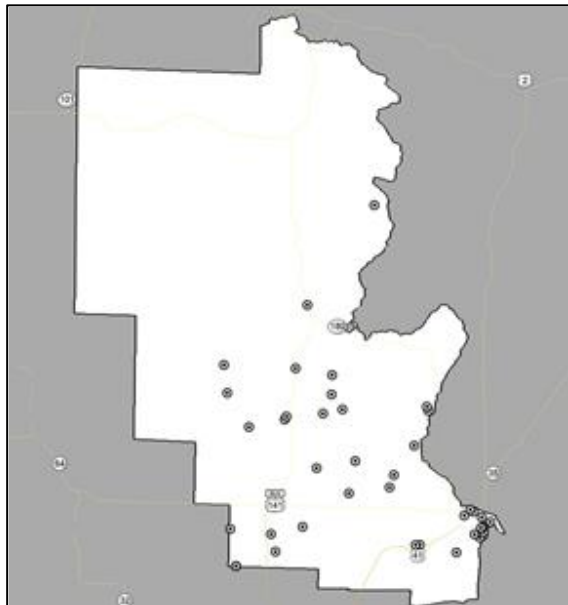
She recalls a 13-year-old girl and her mother who were early participants in the parks prescription program. Living in a family shelter at the time, the daughter had trouble with anxiety and maintaining a healthy weight. But after they began going on nature outings, they were both able to tune in better to their own emotional needs, and the daughter's anxiety and weight issues improved.

"The outdoors gives you a landscape for building that relationship within a family," Razani says. "Families need to know that they have the right to take a bit of time off every day to be together - and that it has actual health benefits."

**Project P.I.G. Updates – Pollinator Invitation Gardens in Bloom!**

By Anne Bartels, Information & Education Specialist

Project P.I.G. (pollinator invitation garden) is still underway – there are several more native plant gardens to install this month. The map shows where they are located in the county.



Most of the gardens were installed from the end of May through July. A variety of native plant species were used in each garden, with bloom times between spring and late fall to optimize food availability for pollinators throughout the growing season. The following participant photos show several of the gardens' progress.



The pollinator garden above is located at the UW-Green Bay-Marinette campus near the parking lot.



See more Project P.I.G. photos on the next page, as well as several pollinator gardens installed at local schools in summer 2019 – they are all doing very well this year!



This is a **WOLVERINE.**

Wolverines are **SOLITARY.** They love being **ALONE.** Their territory can range from **40** to more than **300 miles.** Be like the wolverine and **PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING**

We totally get that mileage is a bit extreme. Maybe just like 6 feet instead.



Project P.I.G., continued



Crivitz Elementary School garden, planted in 2019



Wausaukee School District garden, planted in 2019



Goodwill Possibilities in Marinette, planted in 2019

In 2021, the P.I.G. gardens installed this summer will fill in and look even better, and provide more habitat for our pollinator friends – as well as provide an important link to nature for us humans!

Ever wonder how small a monarch butterfly egg is?



The female typically lays eggs singly on the underside of milkweed leaves. Here is a female laying an egg on red (or swamp) milkweed. She ‘tastes’ the plant with her feet to make sure it’s milkweed, then curls her abdomen underneath to lay the egg. The oblong eggs can look very similar to droplets of milkweed sap or aphids, so look closely!



Menekaunee Sunrise School garden in Marinette – planted in 2019 in old vegetable beds, it was doing great until early July this year – many of the plants were eaten. We replaced the plants and added ‘scare tactic’ deterrents like pinwheels and scent bags. Hopefully the critters will leave the garden alone now!

Impact of Wildlife Gardens

Excerpts from: <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Impact>

Private residential property makes up approximately one-third of the urban landscape and **studies show that the impact of wildlife gardening is substantial.** These properties connect corridors of habitat necessary for migratory species between natural and larger protected areas of habitat on state, municipal and federal lands. They provide a continuum of resources if planted with a rich diversity of native plants and trees to supply the food chain for insects and the animals who depend on them.

A recent study examined whether or not the matrix of homes and private properties between and near habitat patches (like parks, riparian areas and other natural areas) in Cook County, IL (Chicago area), plays a role in supporting healthy migratory and resident bird population. **The study found that “streets with bird-friendly yards had almost twice as many species as those without.”**

Since 1973, property owners who have *Certified Wildlife Habitats* with the National Wildlife Federation have witnessed this sort of evidence first-hand. Research on Certified Wildlife Habitats confirmed that property owner commitment to providing the four elements of habitat - food, water, cover, and places to raise young - while practicing sustainable gardening and landscaping, made a real difference.



CERTIFIED WILDLIFE HABITAT®

Certified Wildlife Habitats resulted in high percentages of:

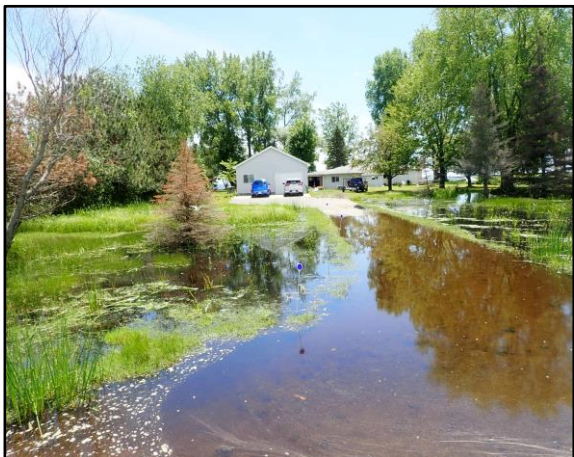
- Wildlife that is present and observed on a daily basis, particularly migratory **wildlife** such as bees, butterflies, birds, and small mammals.
- **Indicator species**, such as monarch butterflies, bumblebees, and frogs. *Indicator species are those that are moderately affected by disturbances to ecosystems* and can act as an index of ecosystem health. Experimental small-scale flower patches increase bee species density.
- **Tree coverage** than neighboring non - certified sites, improving water retention, minimizing erosion and surface habitat. Significantly, reduced carbon and air pollution properties was evident. In fact, National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitats sequester 811.62 metric tons of CO2 annually more than their non-certified neighbors.
- **Native plants** supporting wildlife than neighboring non-certified sites.
- **Water conservation** and stormwater runoff management through **groundwater permeability.**

Other literature along with participant self-reporting shows that habitat owners spent more time outside, and that the overall increased oxygen-producing vegetation, the visual interest and color of their active wildlife garden, and tree coverage had beneficial effects on both people and the ecosystem.



Lake Michigan Breaks 34-year-old High Water Record

From: <https://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/news/local/oconto-county/2020/08/04/lake-michigan-breaks-34-year-old-high-water-record/3294377001/>



Flooded driveway near Peshtigo Harbor

All but one of the Great Lakes have likely reached their peak for the year, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Lakes Michigan-Huron set another new monthly mean record high water level in July, and the Corps' most recent forecast projects that Lake Michigan-Huron will likely set another new record high monthly mean water level in August, before it drops back beneath record highs in September.

The mean, which is compiled from readings at six locations, is 582.20 feet — 0.02 feet from June and 0.21 feet from the previous record of 581.99 in 1986.



Flooded parking lot at Red Arrow Park in Marinette

The long-term average for Lake Michigan and Lake Huron — which are listed together because the levels on each body move together — is 579.36 feet. The record low for July was 576.71 in 1964.

The water level of Lake Superior is expected to peak next month before entering its period of typical seasonal decline. Lakes Erie, Ontario and St. Clair all continued to decline last month, with no new records set on those lakes in July.



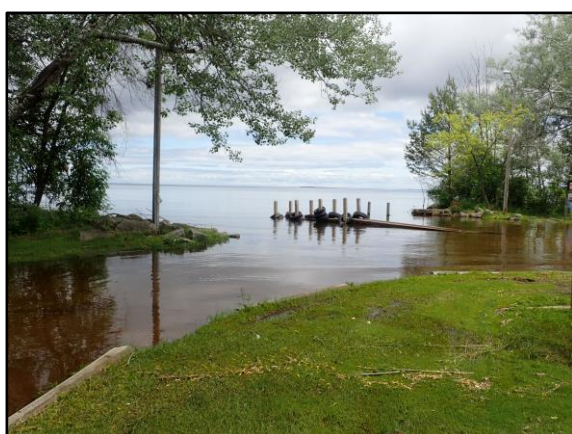
Boulders to help prevent further shoreline erosion at Red Arrow Park in Marinette

"While we expect water levels to decline across most of the Great Lakes, levels still remain extremely high," said John Allis, chief of the Great Lakes Hydraulics and Hydrology Office.

Coastlines on Green Bay and Lake Michigan have suffered flooding and, when blasted by storms from the east, significant erosion.



Shoreline erosion prevention measures



Flooded boat landing at Little River boat launch in Marinette

With the continued high water on many of the lakes, and the approaching active fall storm period, the Corps urges property owners affected by high water levels last fall to prepare for similar or worse impacts over the next few months.



Menominee, MI shoreline — note the fallen bench due to erosion of shoreline



Henes Park in Menominee, MI — water covers the original beach, with water creeping into the road

For more Great Lakes information, go to:

- <https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Great-Lakes-Information/> - Army Corps of Engineers
- <https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/wlevels/> - National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
- <https://www.seagrant.wisc.edu/> - SeaGrant, University of Wisconsin

Make an Edible Aquifer!

<https://www.eekwi.org/activities/arts-crafts/edible-aquifer>

Did you ever wonder where all of the water you use comes from? In Wisconsin, most of us get our water from under the ground. **Groundwater** doesn't flow like an underground river. Instead, **groundwater is stored in and moves slowly through layers of soil, sand and rocks called aquifers.** It can be kind of hard to picture how this works, so to help you out, we're going to make an aquifer. In this case, it will be an edible aquifer. *This will show you how groundwater is stored and how what we do above ground can affect the water underground.*

Supplies

Here are all of the items you'll need: blue or red food coloring, vanilla ice cream, clear soda, different size chocolate chips, cake decoration sprinkles and sugars, drinking straws, spoons and clear cups.



The first step to making our edible aquifer is to fill a small, clear cup about one-third of the way with your chocolate pieces. This represents all of the sand, gravel, and rocks in the aquifer.

Now, cover the "gravel, sand, and rock layer" with white soda. This is our groundwater. See how the "water" fills in the spaces around the "gravel, sand, and rock."

The next layer of our aquifer is called the **confining layer**, which is usually clay or dense rock. The water is confined below this layer. Today our confining layer is going to consist of ice cream. Spread a layer of ice cream over the chips and soda. Now add another layer of "gravel and sand," chocolate chips.

Now add some food coloring to a small amount of soda. The coloring represents pollution.

The next layer is our porous, top layer of soil. Decorating sprinkles and some colored sugar can be used to represent this layer.

Now add some food coloring to a small amount of soda. The coloring represents pollution. Can you think of some pollutants that can affect groundwater? Watch what happens when we pour it on the land.

By sucking on the straw, you can pump the well and watch as the water table goes down.



Now, using your straw, drill a well (push the straw down toward the bottom of the cup) into the center of your aquifer. Slowly begin to pump the well by sucking on the straw. Watch as the water table goes down. Also, watch and see how the contaminants can get sucked into the well area and end up in the groundwater by eventually leaking through the confining layer.

Pretend it's raining and **recharge the aquifer** by adding more soda. A real aquifer takes a lot longer to recharge, this is just an example to speed up the process and give you a little more soda to drink! Now it's time to eat your aquifer!



7 'Unrecyclable' Items That Really Can Be Recycled

<https://www.treehugger.com/unrecyclable-items-really-can-be-recycled-4863438>

Recycling is second nature to most of us. Each week we dutifully deposit our used bottles, cans and paper in curbside bins for repurposing and a second life. It's a good feeling, but, sadly, not all trash is recyclable. Most municipalities and recycling companies have a long list of things they don't take.

But just because something's on the no-no list, doesn't mean it can't be recycled somewhere. You might have to forgo the convenience of weekly pickup, but plenty of companies and organizations are devising new ways to keep more "unrecyclables," like the seven below, out of landfills and in circulation for use in new products.

The following recycling innovations should help you sustainably tackle more of life's throwaways. (Check out <https://earth911.com/> for additional recycling options.) What better way to chip away at the 230 million tons of junk Americans discard each year and ensure that fewer virgin raw materials are consumed?

1. Plastic grocery bags & product packaging



Problem: It seems like every time you turn around you've accumulated another pile of plastic shopping bags, food wrappers and dry cleaning bags. Sadly, not many municipalities recycle this type of plastic because it's not usually clean and dry enough after sitting outside in your curbside bin, and also because plastic bags and films tend to get caught in recycling equipment. The result? Most of the 500 billion plastic bags and mountains of product wrapping used around the world every year end up in landfills or oceans where they can spend 300 years breaking down into toxic particles that contaminate the environment.

Solution: Fortunately, this kind of plastic is recyclable and can be transformed into many products, including composite lumber, pipes and even new bags. To make sure your plastic wrap and bags get reborn, look for a drop-off recycling receptacle at your supermarket sponsored by the *Wrap Recycling Action Program* (WRAP - <https://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/>). In addition to plastic grocery bags, you can also deposit your clean bread bags, paper towel and toilet paper wrapping, sandwich storage bags, plastic shipping envelopes, furniture and electronic wrap, and other plastic films. (Note: several places in Marinette/Menominee area have drop-off receptacles – Walmart, Kohl's, & Jack's Grocery stores).

2. Wine Corks



Problem: Sure, you recycle your wine bottles, but what about the corks? Chances are you toss them. It may not seem like a big deal, but cork is actually an important renewable resource that can be easily repurposed. In fact, using and recycling natural cork helps keep ecologically-

harvested cork forests productive and thriving. These environmental treasures, located mostly in Europe, are tremendous biodiversity centers (sheltering endangered animals like the Iberian lynx). Plus, they absorb millions of tons of CO2 and provide thousands of families with a sustainable source of income.

Solution: There are a couple of ways to make sure your corks remain in use. One is to bring them to a ReCORK (<https://recork.com/>) drop-off location or ship them to the organization for recycling. Recork began collecting corks from restaurants, wineries and individuals in 2008 to be remade into new products such as shoes, flooring and yoga blocks.

The *Cork Forest Conservation Alliance* runs a similar program called *CorkReharvest* (<https://corksny.com/us/sustainability/cork-reharvest/>). Look for drop-off boxes in grocery stores such as Whole Foods, wine shops, winery tasting rooms, restaurants, hotels and performing arts centers.

3. Clothing and textiles

Problem: According to the Council for Textile Recycling, the average American tosses about 70 pounds of clothing and household textiles into landfills each year. That amounts to something like 150 T-shirts per person, which collectively adds up to 21 billion pounds of waste annually (more than 5 percent of landfill trash).

Solution: While it's difficult to turn used fabric into new fabric, there are more and more ways (besides donating worn clothing to charities) to keep old outfits out of the trash heap and extend their useful life. For instance, many clothing retailers, like Levi's and H&M, allow consumers to drop off unwanted clothes at their stores - whatever the brand or condition - for recycling. Clothing that still can be worn is usually sold in second-hand stores. Unwearable pieces are repurposed into insulation and cushioning products, or the fibers are upcycled for use in new clothing.

4. Cardboard pizza boxes

Problem: Sure, you love the ease of picking up a quick pizza when you don't have time to cook, but disposing of the cardboard box isn't nearly so simple. That's because *once grease or food particles soak into the cardboard, they can't be separated from the paper fibers during the recycling process.* As a result, millions of pizza boxes end up getting chucked.



Solution: North Carolina State University has developed an eco-friendly way to deal with this problem: a pizza box composting program. Launched in 2014, the university has since collected thousands of boxes a year in specially marked dumpsters located around campus and turned them into nutrient-rich fertilizer. Students can also compost their paper plates, napkins and leftover pizza slices and crusts. If you don't happen to live on NCSU's campus, try composting pizza boxes and other paper products at home by ripping them into small pieces, including greasy sections, and tossing them in the compost bin.

5. Yogurt containers, margarine tubs and other #5 plastic products

Problem: Although many plastics are readily accepted for recycling - such as #1 (PETE), which includes plastic soda bottles, and #2 (HDPE), used in milk and bleach containers - it's harder to find recyclers that take #5 plastics (a.k.a., polypropylene). Plastic products carry a recycling symbol with a number from 1 to 7 inside indicating the type of resin used. *On the list of tough-to-recycle #5 plastics: hummus tubs, food*

storage containers and plastic utensils. Most end up landfill-bound where they may take centuries to break down.

Solution: One way to recycle your #5 plastic is through **Preserve Products' Gimme 5** program (<https://www.preserve.eco/pages/gimme5-overview>). Either drop off your clean containers in Gimme 5 bins at a participating retail location (mostly Whole Foods Markets and other grocery stores) or mail them to Preserve using a printable shipping label. The company turns old containers into new products, including toothbrushes and razors that can be returned after use for recycling.

6. Porcelain tiles



Problem: Retiling your floors may revitalize and brighten bathrooms, kitchens and other rooms, but it can be tough to find new uses for old porcelain tiles ripped up during renovations. That's because the firing process makes it difficult to crush tiles back down into ceramic powder for use in new porcelain products. As a result, mountains of previously installed tiles, as well as never-used tiles that are damaged or unusable, pile up in landfills each year.

Solution: Crossville Inc., a Tennessee tile manufacturer, has created a way to turn fired porcelain tile back into raw material for creating new tiles. In 2009, it launched its *Tile Take-Back Program*, which has diverted tens of millions of pounds of fired waste tile from landfills and diminished the company's own demand for raw materials. Crossville accepts its own previously installed and unused tiles, as well used tiles from other manufacturers as long as they're replaced with Crossville brand tiles. There's no charge to participate, but you pay for shipping costs (<https://www.crossvilleinc.com/Resources/Sustainability/Tile-Take-Back>).

7. Wire hangers



Problem: If you're like most Americans, your closet harbors a sizable stash of unused wire hangers. Most are leftovers from the dry cleaner. Collectively, US dry cleaners use more than 3 billion metal hangers annually, enough steel to make an estimated 60,000 cars. Most municipalities don't accept wire hangers for curbside recycling because the curved ends can jam recycling equipment. As a result, the majority of metal hangers eventually find their way into the trash.

Solution: Try returning hangers where you got them: at your local dry cleaner. More and more establishments either reuse them or send them to a scrap metal dealer.

More recycling links of interest:

- <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Recycling> – WI Dept. of Natural Resources
- <https://www.recyclemorewisconsin.org/>
- <https://www.sierraclub.org/topics/recycling>
- <https://loopstore.com/> - reusable product packaging & home delivery
- <https://www.wpr.org/recycling-more-complicated-it-used-be>

